Focus on Food

Food is a topic of great interest to just about everyone. SCCLD is a great place to get reliable and up-to-date information about healthy cooking and eating, the locavore movement, sustainable agriculture and many other related topics.

The program series, Focus on Food, which runs from February through May of 2013, will feature live food demonstrations, author discussions, hands-on food preparation, health and wellness talks, as well as programs about various aspects of farming / growing food. Presenters include a wide variety of chefs (including celebrity chef and television personality, Martin Yan), authors / food writers, plus healthy eating and other types of food specialists from around the greater Bay area. Along with the food-focused programs, our libraries will also be highlighting SCCLD's top-rated collection of materials, including cookbooks, food magazines & DVDs, and a wide variety of non-fiction books for "foodies" of all ages.

For more information, visit http://www.sccl.org/food or

See our brochure for a complete schedule of Focus on Food programs.

Silicon Valley Reads: Invisible Wounds of War

By Gail Mason, Library Administration

In 2013, Silicon Valley Reads explores the theme of **Invisible Wounds of War** and asks everyone in

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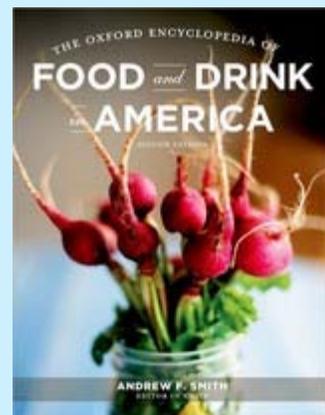
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Booklists to Get Cooking!

Featured eResource

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America, Edited by Andrew F. Smith

Learn about the history of food and drink, and its influence on American culture. You'll find intriguing articles on such topics as Airline Food, Apple Pie, Baby Food, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Popcorn, Vanilla, Wraps, and even Zombies. Learn how events, inventions, and social

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think about this important topic.

Through our selected books and a variety of free public events for all ages, we hope to engage our community in apolitical discussions about the after effects of war on soldiers and their families. This year's Silicon Valley Reads selections are The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life That Follows by Brian Castner, and Minefields of the Heart: A Mother's Stories of a Son at War by Sue Diaz.

Santa Clara County Library District is offering over 30 Silicon Valley Reads events through April 13. Libraries are also sponsoring a "Letter to the Troops" campaign, and items for care packages can be donated at community libraries for South Bay Blue Star Moms, to be sent to soldiers on active duty. A full listing of our events can be found on our website.

Both authors, Brian Castner and Sue Diaz, are participating in an online book club which can be accessed at http://www.sccl.org/svr-club.

In addition to the adult selections, Silicon Valley Reads offers companion books for children: Night Catch by Brenda Ehrmantraut; Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle by Brian Dennis and Mary Nethery; and Back Home by Julia Keller. The teen selection is Purple Heart by Patricia McCormick.

Both of this year's main selections are memoirs that deal with the invisible casualties of warfare. The two authors – a soldier and a soldier's mother – share their personal stories describing what happens when soldiers return home from war and must meet the challenges of readjusting back to civilian life. Castner served three tours of duty in the Middle East and was commander of an explosive ordinance disposal unit in Iraq. Diaz has documented the emotional rollercoaster she experienced during her son's deployment.
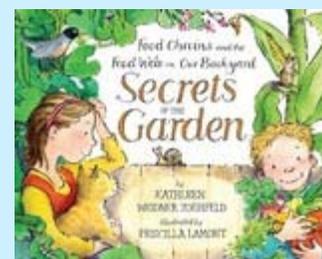
Join us in reading and discussing these excellent books during Silicon Valley Reads 2013.

Mystery Series for Food-Lovers

by Pat Lorenzo, Library Administration

Are you a food-loving mystery fan….or a mystery-loving "foodie"? Either way, you are definitely in luck because the Library has a

way we view, prepare and consume food and drink on a daily basis. Bon appétit!

Staff Pick for Children

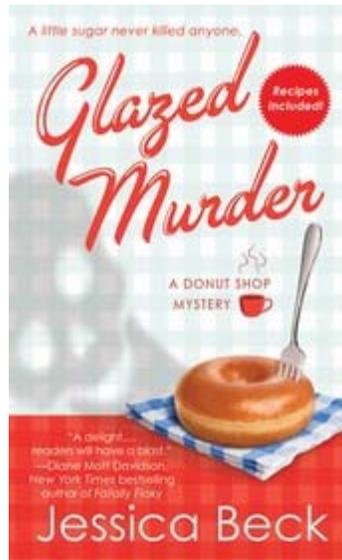by Rose Khoury, Saratoga Library

Secrets of the Garden: Food Chains and the Food Web in Our Backyard by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont

If you have been thinking about starting a vegetable garden with your family, this book is just for you! Readers have the opportunity to follow mom, dad, Alice, Pete, their cat, and chickens as they work together to plant a vegetable garden. You will find that the dialogue from the various animal characters also contributes to teaching children how food chains and food webs work. This book has wonderful full page illustrations, humorous character dialogues, and detailed diagrams that will appeal to children of all ages.

wide range of culinary mystery series for you to choose from, many with delicious recipes included. Most are considered to be "cozy mysteries" - i.e., on the lighter side, not brutal. Take a look and choose a sleuth you might enjoy from the list of chefs, bakers, restaurant owners, waitresses, bed and breakfast / inn managers, food critics, shop owners, and more.

- Jessica Beck writes the Donut Shop Mystery Series which features Suzanna Hart, the owner of Donut Hearts Coffee Shop as the sleuth (Doughnut recipes are included).
- Isis Crawford is the author of the Mystery with Recipes Series featuring two sisters who own the Little Taste of Heaven Catering and Bake Shop in New York.
- Diane Mott Davidson's Goldy Bear Catering Mystery Series is probably one of the most recognizable culinary theme cozy mystery series. It is set in a picturesque area of Colorado and features Goldy (the caterer) who provides the best catered food in town and manages to solve a lot of the best crimes in town, also! Recipes included.
- Nancy Fairbanks writes the Carolyn Blue Culinary Mystery Series featuring Carolyn as a culinary author / sleuth. The books include recipes.
- Joanne Fluke is the author of the Cookie Jar Cozy Mystery Series that takes place in Minnesota. Hannah Swensen not only manages the bakery, but she also manages to solve crimes between baking up batches of delicious treats. And, as a special bonus, the recipes of these sweet treats are included in the novels.
- Jenn McKinlay (aka Lucy Lawrence) writes the Cupcake Bakery Mystery Series which features Melanie and Angie, amateur sleuths and owners of the Fairy Tale Cupcakes Bakery Shop.

The Beat Museum

by Robyn McCreight, Campbell Library

We have some exciting news for fans of local literature! Discover and Go, the Library's virtual museum pass program, has just added the Beat

Teen Pick

Blue Thread by Ruth Tenzer Feldman

The year is 1912 and sixteen-year-old Miriam Josefsohn wants nothing more than to be a part of the women's suffrage movement, something her strict father would never allow. Miriam's world changes forever when her uncle gives her a prayer shawl with a single blue thread that has been in her family for generations. The shawl has the power to transport Miriam back thousands of years to the time of Moses, where she learns she is not the first girl to stand up for freedom and justice.

Museum to its list of venues. The museum is located in San Francisco's North Beach, once home to Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Neal Cassady and other key figures of The Beat Generation. Filled with original manuscripts, first editions, photographs and personal artifacts, this is a must-see for history buffs, bibliophiles and those who simply enjoy eccentricity. Best of all, you can schedule a free admission with your SCCLD library card.

Get Cooking with these Great Books!

Try this booklist for teens including books about creative cooking, vegan meals, and more.

How about some books about portable foods, foodie fiction, and cooking show DVDs?

Hours and Locations | Calendar | Email Us

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